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True North
A little love for Canada
on page 3

Protecting wildlife
How you can support our furry friends
on page 5

Comfort food
Join the Lions Club for their famous spaghetti on
page 11

Say cheese!
A young fisher peeks over a remaining snowbank to 'paws' for a picture. /submitted by Tammy Nash

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The ice storm that won't go away, don'tcha know

DEAR READER,

Why, it's been at least two whole weeks since the ice storm hit Lake WhaddayathinkImean and folks are still flapping their lips about it. It's like it just won't go away. The consensus of opinion seems to be – the most unsettling part of the resulting power outage, was a total break in communication with the outside world. That's right, and that's scary, don'tcha know.

MAYBELLE'S
Fireside Stories

It used to be, having a landline was a safe bet for those times when the power would go out. Not this time. Ol' Maybelle's landline went mute and so did my cell phone. No TV, no streaming news and entertainment. I couldn't contact Beanpole, or Twindle, or Vilma Yuccch or Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom. It felt so apocalyptic, like the aftermath depicted in so many movies and television shows I've seen. And boy, did it ever give me pause, thinking about folks whose homes are devastated by war, fires, floods, hurricanes, and who have no ready-at-hand food stuffs, bottled water, clothing, blankets, the basics that we all take for granted.

Now, I did have a couple of LED lanterns that worked pretty well, and big chunky candles that lit up a room. I layered myself with sweater upon sweater, leggings upon leggings. If ol' Maybelle didn't look the poster child for Ozempic and Wegovy, don'tcha know – the *before* picture. As it turned out, I was lucky. Power came back on about ten hours later, and boy was I glad of it. From habit, I kept entering a room and switching on a light switch that didn't go on. Now, it went on and so did the heat. Very grateful, don'tcha know.

And boy did our community come together to help neighbours in need. Lake W set up an emergency warming station like the one in Minden. And volunteers at Canoe FM in Haliburton kept folks informed with updates and help lines. Fortunately, ol' Maybelle had a battery-operated radio that came in super handy.

What also struck me was how dependent we've become on technology. How easy it's become to watch a program instead of read a book. To listen to music instead of make music.

As I mentioned in my last column, my ukulele has found life again in ol' Maybelle's old fingers and it has *joy* written all over it.

What's the weather like now? Why, if I didn't see a patch of lovely Snow Drops growing on the side of my cottage the other day. And one garlic stem popping its head up from under my straw-covered garlic patch. Before you know it, all of our perennials will be flourishing again, reminding us to keep the faith during those long cold grey months with no eye candy, only bare trees and frozen earth.

Yes, Dear Reader, it's all coming back to life, and with it – warm temperatures, sunny days, time with friends, family, and neighbours out and about – hiking, swimming, cycling, and making memories to love, don'tcha know.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories and her novel: "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon" are now available at www.amazon.com.

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County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Plug it in

SINCE GETTING the role I have in 2011, I have moved offices several times. In all those moves a desk lamp has remained constant. In the recent move around to accommodate flooring, the light stopped working. In some busy days I did not give it much thought, but one day this week when I wanted to do a lot of reading, I took a closer look.

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I wiggled cords and tightened the bulb, all the technical knowledge I have. In my attempts to repair the base broke. Disheartened, I decided that the lamp that had been my constant companion would now need to be replaced, so I crawled under the desk to unplug it. In doing so I found that it had not been plugged in since the flooring was installed. I taped the base back together and committed my lamp back into service.

I wonder how often I do this. I look to make a change because I can't see the light in the moment only to find that I in fact have not plugged in. I have perhaps not fully committed, I have not given the time and attention needed, I have not reached out to those that can help and guide, I have not taken time to fully recharge.

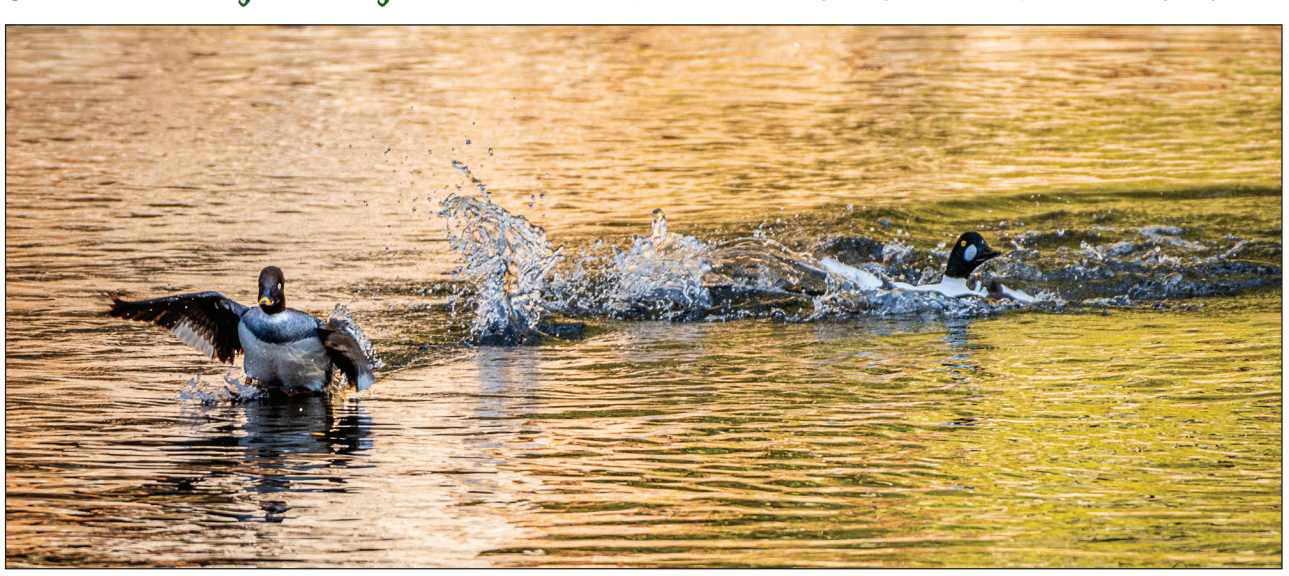
I wonder too, how many times I have looked to others to do the work of checking if I have brought my best. I have heard it said that humans are just complicated houseplants, we need water and sunlight. At Community Living we strive to ensure that everyone feels they have a role, a place, a space in community.

That we all keep on moving to understanding that the whole is so much richer when everyone is included. That all of us can only shine when we have our place to plug in to the community around us. Maybe there is a chance that we all could see the light at the end of our many tunnels or that pushes us to show up with our best, more often if we make sure we are plugged into our community, our best version, our unique gifts and those around us. It's worth checking under the desk a little more often.

Community Living Trent Highlands is checking in as the board hosts fun events in each community throughout May. The board is hosting trivia nights, May 8 is the date for Haliburton. It will be a great night of music, food and trivia, with some time spent checking in on how CLTH is doing and gathering feedback. Please plan to attend if you have insights to share or you have great ideas on how CLTH could be better plugged into the Haliburton Community. May 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion.

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.



Ducks landing by Debi Ireland

How do I love thee, Canada?

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

WHOLEHEARTEDLY. IT'S way too important not to right now. Canadians are recalculating. Status quo is recalculating. I've been leaning on my privileges. I've been guilty of lazy opinions. Despite my excellent free education, my entitlement kept me comfortably numb, with fickle voting dependent on candidate, era, vibe, my age, my mood. I always got to think freely and publicly, to filter the 'facts' using my inert personal biases. And today, for such privilege, I am suddenly, urgently, differently, passionately, increasingly grateful.

My parents' European childhoods were alternative to mine. Their leaders were more remote. War information came largely through newspapers, hearsay and mailed letters. No instant interactive social media. Their primary connector was radio, but not everybody owned one. Families with a wireless could gather to hear - and believe - whatever their leaders explained. Latest situations. Updated strategies. How one should operate. Nervous listeners never quite knew what was going on. Except constant fight or flight.

My attention to politics sharpened as I aged. I grew more alert. But I'm still not used to youth linking my age with guaranteed wisdom. Am I evolved, informed and calm? I don't feel calm. I feel tired and baffled. Still, I'm hopefully humbled by the direct energy of younger activists. They scrutinize, satirize, challenge, display realities. They volunteer, make films, write, sing, protest, campaign. They count on the equal rights that history's heroes fought hard to achieve. "I have a dream" (Martin Luther King Jr.) "Give peace a chance" (John Lennon) "One Love! One Heart!" (Bob Marley).

Lately, most of us are fighting some kind of chaos, psychic fallout from shocking changes to our safety and identity. But Canadians are also regrouping, mindfully revitalizing their commitment to this country. Its school-kids are taught to love the land, indeed, to respect all Earth, to keep it clean, recognize its varied citizens, and instantly help anyone else in need. Pacifist American Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." For Canadians, it's not only about pride of flag, but how it fits, and how it benefits the world.

Victorian English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning composed *Sonnet 43* for her husband. We could borrow its universal romantic ardour, not for one mortal, but towards our entire and precious land:

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height

My soul can reach…

That symbolic red maple leaf is almost as vocal, reliable and recognizable as the Red Cross. We care. We mitigate. We rally. We see the big picture. We cherish our hectares as we simultaneously honour the world's. We're all made of this planet, of its original inhabitants, of its self-checking work-in-progress, of immigrants, ancestors, elders, children, community, landscapes, water. We weave threads, and salute the mosaic. From sea to sea to sea.

Choose blessings over petty grievances. Count the ways.

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Hal High reconnects with music

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

The first band class in over a decade, local Hal High students were eager to discuss what they've learned so far, and why it's important to have music in their lives. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

"Take a deep breath in," says Meghan Mardus, the music teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. "Feet flat on the floor. Check your body. Okay, let's go."

This was how the students started their day on a particularly dull and dreary Thursday. After morning announcements and cartons of chocolate milk hurriedly chugged by the door, they gathered themselves with their instruments.

Flutes, trumpets, a trombone, clarinets, a few small tubas, and drums. "We all started playing together in February of this year," explained Mardus, "and no one in this class has prior experience with the instrument they are on."

What may be a core memory for some graduates of Hal High, others would know that the local music classes have been extinct for over a decade, since the retirement of the beloved and passionate music teacher, Tom Regina. While guitar classes have been offered in an effort to keep the music bug alive, band music fell off the table from a lack of interest; both amongst staff and students.

"These instruments have just been sitting here, languishing," said Mardus. "And it's been such a joy to hear them again."

Mardus credited Long and McQuade, a well-known music store, for coming in and tuning up all the instruments for a very affordable price. This was the kick they needed to get the ball rolling on local music classes once again.

Mardus has been a teacher for over 16 years. She's traveled across the county, teaching students of all ages, before picking up a French teacher position at the high school two years ago. While teaching flows through her veins, her real passion is for drama and the arts. "I played French horn growing up," she reflected. "And I truly believe that music is such a formative, incredible experience, and I want that for the students."

She shared that re-developing the music program at Hal High has become her ultimate mission. "This is what I will be doing for the next 19 years of my career," she chuckled. "It's just so much fun. This is my happy place now."

And the students can't help but agree. The class is for all ages; from Grades 9 to 12, and despite the anticipated grogginess that generally accompanies teenagers and first-class-of-the-day energy, the underlying excitement to the room was palpable. At one point, a young flautist expressly chimed "alright, it's Beethoven time!"

The group is learning Ode to Joy, from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. But that's not how they started. Mardus is adamant that if you hear the music, you can play the music. That's half the battle. So she started them out with a series of pop ballads to pique their interest. "We played songs from Blink-182, Taylor Swift, Red Hot Chili Peppers," says Willow Brown, a Grade 9 student who has just started playing the flute. "We've got a really good foundation of practice," echoed Veronica Beynon, a fellow flautist.

Drey Cook, another Grade 9 student who has just started with the flute, shared that he intends to carry on with playing the instrument, whenever he can. "It's mostly muscle memory, now," he said.

Other students in the class, such as Grade 10 Daniel Wheeler, have dabbled in music before. But Wheeler had never tackled his newest interest; the trombone. He cited the Disney movie Soul as the reason he wanted to start with the unique instrument, and is eager to learn more. "This class has really opened up more pathways to different musical futures," he said.

Bryant Medlar is in Grade 11, and just started playing the trumpet. He sat alongside Jacob Sutton, a Grade 9 student, who plays the clarinet. Both are brand new to the instruments, and while they have an interest in music, never saw themselves playing. "I originally wanted to play the drums or the piano," said Jacob, "but now I am on the clarinet." Bryant shared that he enjoys hearing all the instruments come together. "It's really interesting," he said. "I think it sounds pretty good."

Mardus ensures that it's not just basic music lessons the students are learning: though they can now all read sheet music with ease. "We're also learning music theory, music history, and it just gives the students such a great foundation for learning more down the road."

Beyond the class being energetic and bubbly, Mardus noted that many of her students leave the class "lighter", as it's a chance to express themselves creatively; something that is easier said than done in the structured life of a high school student.

The students are preparing their pieces for their upcoming talent show at the school. "I know we can do it," said student Vanessa Beynon. "If we have enough practice, I think we can easily perform in a few weeks."

"When everyone comes together and plays," says Grade 10 Wheeler, "it's totally euphoric to hear it. There's a great payoff to the practice."

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Wildlife centres across Ontario work to protect baby animals

Minden's Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) is one of eight Ontario-based wildlife centres sounding the alarm over the growing number of orphaned wildlife in the region.

As temperatures rise, wildlife activity increases and many species, including raccoons and squirrels, seek warm, secluded spaces to nest and raise their young. Attics, chimneys, and other quiet undisturbed areas become prime spots for these animals.

Not only is this an issue for homeowners, it is also of deep concern for wildlife rehabilitation centres who are on the receiving end of the hundreds of baby animals who are orphaned every year when homeowners evict their moms from their premises.

This tragedy is not only devastating but also entirely preventable. In response, eight leading Ontario-based wildlife centres, including Aspen Valley, have united in a powerful effort to raise awareness and educate homeowners on more responsible and effective ways to deal with wildlife on their property.

The problem with trapping and relocation

While the majority of individuals can grasp the barbaric nature of a kill trap, many people remain under the wrongful impression that live traps are a humane option. This is simply not the case. Live-trapped animals experience significant stress, often injuring themselves in attempts to escape the trap. They are also vulnerable to extreme temperatures and dehydration while waiting to be transported to another location. Some never make it.

If released, these animals face even more challenges. Often ripped away from their young, they are left in an unfamiliar environment struggling to find food and shelter. They may also encounter territorial disputes with other wildlife, adding more stress to an already traumatic experience.

To minimize the risks to survival and limit the potential for disease transmission, Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act prohibits the relocation of animals more than one kilometre from their capture site. While this is intended to protect animals, ecosystems and humans, it is not foolproof. In fact, many species have incredibly strong homing instincts and will likely return to their original territory, including to their young. As a result, legal relocation is frequently ineffective.

A more humane approach

With these challenges in mind, it's important for homeowners to take a more humane and thoughtful approach to managing wild animals on their property.

Following are best practices supported by wildlife centres across the province.

1. The Gift of Time

If you are aware that the wildlife in your home has babies, the most humane approach is to allow her time to care for them until they are old enough to follow her out of the den on their own (typically around eight to ten weeks old). This prevents orphaning the babies and gives them the best chance at survival.

Important Note: Before sealing any entry points ensure all babies have left. One way to determine this is to place a crumpled paper towel at the entrance to track movement. If the paper towel is disturbed, it likely means that an animal is still inside.

2. Discourage Occupancy

To encourage wild animals to leave on their own, experts recommend making the den area less than ideal for a nursing mom by incorporating various elements in or near the den, such as:

- Leaving a talk radio station playing (no music).
- Using a non-flammable light source in or near the den area.
- Introducing strong smells, like apple cider vinegar on rags placed in a plastic bag with holes.

Using all three methods together, with patience, will likely encourage the mother to move her babies to a new den. Since the majority of species have multiple den sites nearby, the transition can occur smoothly for both human and animal families.

If you would like guidance on this process, contact Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary at 705 286-1133. You can also visit www.woodlandswildlfesanctuary.ca for additional information on living in harmony with wildlife.

3. Seek Professional Help if Necessary

If the situation becomes overwhelming, seek a reputable wildlife control company with expertise in wildlife biology and behaviour, especially during mating and breeding seasons.

Their service should include:

- A thorough inspection and free estimate.
- Identifying entry points and locating the mother and her babies.
- Using humane techniques, like one-way doors to allow the mother to leave on her own.
- Gently remove the babies and place them in a heated reunion box, where they can stay warm until the mother returns and takes her babies one by one to another safe den site.

After the removal, and reuniting the animal family, the company should secure all entry points to prevent future stays and repair any damage caused by the animal.

We do not recommend companies that offer to "live trap" and "relocate" the animal.

4. Wildlife Proof Your Home

To reduce the risk of future wild guests, homeowners should take proactive steps to wildlife-proof their homes. Basic steps would include:

- Removing food sources, such as securing trash bags and storing them in secure bins.
- Sealing entry points, including the installation of chimney and vent covers.

The eight Wildlife Centres involved in this effort include:

- Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (Rosseau, Ontario)
- Holly's Haven Wildlife Rescue (Dunrobin, Ontario)
- Procyon Wildlife (Beeton, Ontario)
- Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre (Napanee, Ontario)
- Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge (Pefferlaw, Ontario)
- Speaking of Wildlife (Orillia and Area, Ontario)
- Turtle Pond Wildlife Centre (Val Caron, Ontario)
- Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary (Minden, Ontario)

About Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is a 100 per cent volunteer-based charity that rescues, rehabilitates and releases native wildlife back into their natural environment.

Established in 2008, and attaining its charitable status in 2011, WWS operates on a beautiful piece of private property owned by Monika Melichar and her husband Whitebear.

Open daily, year-round, and many times late into the night, Monika has dedicated her life to helping wildlife get back on their feet again. Authorized by the MNRF and Canadian Wildlife Services, the sanctuary is one of a handful in Ontario that accepts all species of wildlife, with the exception of raccoons due to severe allergies. All animals brought into care are treated with equal respect, as they believe every life is precious and every living thing deserves a second chance. From orphaned baby songbirds, squirrels and ducklings, to injured foxes, owls and porcupines, it is a huge responsibility to provide species-specific diets, appropriate medical attention, and proper housing for the vastly diversified needs of the wildlife in this region.

With each passing year, the sanctuary grows and is able to accommodate more and more animals that are in need of help. Not only does WWS provide this essential public service; a place where people can seek help for injured and orphaned wildlife free of charge, it also answers thousands of telephone inquiries and provides environmentally sound advice, helping property owners resolve many human-wildlife conflicts.

The sanctuary does not receive any government funding, relying mostly on public donations and their own fundraising efforts to meet the needs of caring for over 750 orphaned and injured wildlife every year. Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary could not accomplish this "labour of love" work without the help of local volunteers. With a core team of over a dozen regular hands-on volunteers, each spring many new volunteers roll up their sleeves and join the team for an incredible experience of working closely with wildlife, and making a difference to one animal at a time.

For additional information, please contact:

Monika Melichar Authorized Wildlife Custodian 705-286-1133, info@woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca

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Vote

WHEN I was growing up, I couldn't wait to vote. As I have mentioned in previous columns, I was lucky to be born into a family who regularly discussed politics.

And while it was often a topic at the dinner table, my parents and grandparents never told me which party to vote for.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

I should come to that decision on my own, they'd say.

So I started to learn. I asked questions. I'd dig deeper. I learned the notable difference of equity versus equality and what that means for people whose voices are so often muted.

I wanted to make my voice heard. Not just for me, but for them, as well.

I quickly realized that the person who yells the loudest isn't always the person who is right. That our world is filled with people who don't actually care about others, but are experts at carrying on that facade on their journey for more power.

So I couldn't wait to vote. What a privilege, I would think to myself, as I read books about the early Suffragettes, who demanded that women have a place at the table.

And while our democratic system comes with its own set of flaws, if everyone does their part, it should work.

Unfortunately, voting in Canada just ends up being the worst type of school project. Only a select few take the time, the energy, the responsibility of sharing their voices. And as a result, change can't happen.

At our last provincial election, 45 per cent of eligible voters showed up to the polls. Less than half of us. Less. Than. Half.

And I have always been curious about the reasoning behind this. In this industry, I know there is no shortage of griping. Everyone has an opinion, and likely, that opinion is somehow linked to something that someone does in a political sphere.

From filling in potholes to altering major taxes, a decision made by a politician in some realm of power has influenced your day. Every single day.

So why wouldn't you use your voice to decide who has that power?

I think there are some misconceptions around the term "advance" polls. You do not need a reason to vote in advance. Anyone can show up, at any of those times. I have spoken to a few people who assume that the advance polls are only for individuals unable to vote on the actual election day, but that's not the case. In my mind, they're for anyone who doesn't like waiting in lines (yes, that's me!).

So show up. You're allowed to take time off work. There are many days to cast your ballot. And if you aren't sure who to vote for, do some digging. Ask questions, watch the news, type in some key words on Google.

In my opinion, this country needs someone who is able to understand the complexities of our economic climate, who respects and appreciates women's autonomy over their bodies, who prioritizes environmental sustainability, who envisions a Canada where every single individual, regardless of race, sexual orientation, or background deserves to have their voices heard.

Not all individuals in this race care about the people of our country.

So don't just vote for who your family votes for. Don't just vote because you don't understand.

Vote because you care. Care about others, care about the planet, care about the future.

You can come to that decision on your own.

Your voice is so much bigger than you think. Make sure you use it.

Top 10 reasons why people love tax time

TAX TIME is upon us. And while most people would rather go through a root canal, you can deny that there are some people who just love tax time. Here are the top 10 reasons why:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Hard-core masochism
2. Accountancy can be a lonely profession.
3. Special kink which involves listening to a Revenue Canada voicemail loop for six hours.
4. Refund! I finally got a refund!
5. Overzealous sense of duty as to what you owe your country.
6. Finally, a chance to use math!
7. It's just like Christmas if you happen to be a paperwork aficionado!
8. You needed a good cry.
9. They say a little suffering is good for the soul.
10. Big fan of the three-step authentication system used on the CRA website!

Holding

Milkweed husks dangling from their stalks,
ashen and brittle, their hollowed insides, paler than the straw-coloured grass craving Rain,
the few husks that remain, emptied of their seeds, that were once sealed in darkness,
before their swollen pods split open and Wind carried the fluff through Air,
hollowing the husks that still cling, one of them, withering in my fingers, crumpling to dust,
how fragile, the things that are left behind, when their season has passed,
like the old leaves that still cling to their twigs, faded to the colour of tarnished coper pennies,
their trees preparing to birth new leaves into being, buds bulging beneath the bark of bare branches,
waiting to claw their way into the world, my fingers grazing the tiny bumps, that feel decay
before they are even born,
my fingertips leaving traces of milkweed dust behind, reaching up to pull a rusted leaf down from its branch,
how hearty, its stem, that survived the winter and held on into spring,
this relic of a leaf that curls in the palm of my hand, withstanding Snow and Wind and ice storm,
and still it clings,
I graze its parched face as I gaze up at the tree, wondering what it is that makes some leaves stay,
withering on their branches as buds unfurl, like grandparents welcoming a new grandchild into the world,
inhaling the Breath of a newborn life, connected by touch, through the generations,
every new leaf, every one that falls, connected by the winding roots of their tree,
the crumpled leaf I hold in my hand, reminding me of the three grandparents that I never knew,
but they knew me,
holding me as a baby before they died, the winter of their lives, colliding with my spring,
my feet and fists of pink skin, cradled by hands, parched and frail as the leaf that I hold in my own,
and though I hold no memory of that, the knowing of it and the seeing it in old photographs,
lets me feel it deep in my bones, generations of family flowing through my veins,
deep as the roots of trees, slithering beneath the earth, their thirst quenched by Rain,
as I lay the parched leaf down onto the ground, on top of the debris of last year's leaves,
that Rain will wash away, as it drenches the buds and feeds the seeds
waiting to burst out of darkness into the world of light,
I stand among the tall grasses, that sway in the breeze, between the stalks of milkweed husks and
a row of trees,
a few rusted leaves dangling from their branches, like the tarnished copper pennies
that I used to pick up from the ground for luck, but they don't make them anymore,
so I peer down, staring at grass instead, the patches of yellow, craving Rain,
the way skin thirsts for touch, by hands that have withered away.

Sylvie Kalenda

Let's talk taxes

Taxes are always a subject of debate during election campaigns, whether the elections are municipal, provincial or federal.

The earliest record of taxation dates back about 5,000 years to Egypt where the pharaohs collected a portion of each subject's harvest. This was a kind of property tax, the amount of tax being based on the production value of the land. Tariffs have existed for thousands of years too, levied to control the trade of certain goods, both within and between countries.

A sales tax was imposed by the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar, about 2,000 years ago. Soon after that, the Emperor Augustus established a system that taxed individuals' wealth, but then changed that to a tax on individuals' income. The concept of an inheritance tax is equally as old.

Today, instead of taxes going to pharaohs and emperors, taxes are collected by elected representatives of the people. Governments decide who will be taxed, what will be taxed, and how taxes will be spent. If the citizens don't like the decisions a government makes, they can replace that government at the next election.

For some thirty years after World War II, it was widely accepted that governments used taxes to provide essential services, to regulate commercial activities, and to re-distribute wealth. Essential services are those parts of society that benefit everyone: roads, water and sewer systems, the justice system, international relations, security. It is impractical (or impossible) to provide these services by oneself. But, beginning in the 1980s, there was a shift. Certain academics and politicians (for example, Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan) came to believe that any government involvement in markets was bad, that governments and other forms of collective action were impediments to the operation of markets, and that essential services should be privatized. This shift in thinking came to Canada with the Mulroney Conservatives. Forty years later, it continues. One recent example here in Ontario is the creeping privatization of our healthcare system. Although the Canada Health Act, which outlines the principles of Canada's publicly funded healthcare system, was passed unanimously by Parliament in 1984, universal healthcare – a defining part of what it means to be Canadian – is under threat from forces that see an opportunity for private corporations to take over a system funded by the public and make a profit to distribute to shareholders.

As governments retreat from providing essential services, resentment over having to pay privately for what had been publicly-funded services grows.

People also recognize that this shift has not resulted in a fair re-distribution of wealth, one of the primary purposes of tax collection. Canadians for Tax Fairness report that the wealthiest one per cent of Canadians now control approximately one-quarter of the wealth in the country. With that wealth, they have a hugely disproportionate power over the economy and public policy. Concentration of ownership of the mainstream media is an element of this disproportionate power.

Many of the remaining 99 per cent believe there is something wrong with this picture. Perhaps this is why attacking taxes has such resonance. But are taxes really the problem? If taxes are cut, the government will have to cut the programs and services that people want. I suggest that the problem is that wealth is not being fairly re-distributed. We need to elect a government that will support its citizens, tax fairly, and use taxes to create a society where everyone can flourish.

Submitted

Diners enjoy pancakes at the Youth Unlimited fundraiser. /Submitted by Leanne Young

Pancake dinner a success

Haliburton Highlands Youth Unlimited had their first annual Spring Pancake Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday April 5.

They had a great group of youth serving over 100 community members who came out to help support the new Bridge Youth Centre's after-school programs. Over $2300 was raised to go towards investing in the youth of our community.

The youth centre has only been open for a few months and is already seeing the positive impact it's making on the youth of our community!

A big thank you to Haliburton Auto, *The Echo*, Glecoffs Family Store, *The Highlander* and Canoe FM for partnering with us in making this fundraiser a huge success.

Submitted by Leanne Young

Minden Community Food Centre

We're updating our hours to better serve you!

New operating days: Tuesdays and Wednesdays - Effective May 6

Regular hours: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Extended hours: first and third Wednesdays, open until 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Lynette or Jean at 705-286-6838.

Submitted

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debra.lambe@gmail.com

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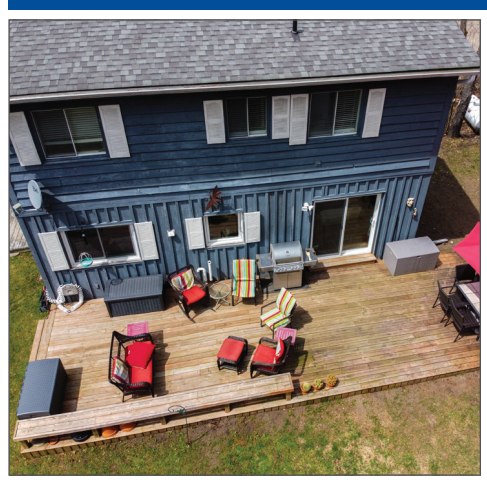

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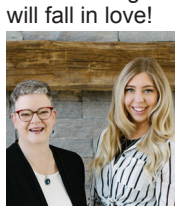

Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
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MovingTheHighlands.com

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Turkey by Lou Weber

Duck by Tammy Nash

Deer smile by Tammy Nash

Robin by Jill Moulton

Cardinal by Vivien Mausz

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/ person
Friday night BBQ start May 23
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/ Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays - April 28 – Darts, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - April 30 Darts, $4/player, 2 p.m.
Saturdays - April 26 Meat Draw, 3 p.m.
April 25 - Wings and Jam Session, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
April 25 - Seniors 55+ Lunch, $17, noon
April 26 - Sock Hop Dance, 1950s and 1960s music, Spot Dance Prizes, Best Dressed Prizes, Hot Dogs Served, $5 at the door. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

Minden Lions cook up good for community

THOMAS SMITH

County Life Staff

Perhaps by fate, Dan Bingham learned that former Minden Lions President, Fwin Norry, was looking for someone to take charge of their famous spaghetti dinner.

An event that everyone knows happens on the fourth Friday of each month.

The Lions' spaghetti dinner is a special culinary effort where $15 can get you all-you-can-eat spaghetti with meat sauce, caesar salad, garlic bread, a drink, and your choice between carrot or German chocolate cake.

Since the age of 14, Bingham has been involved within the culinary sphere. For a few years, he even ran Dan's Delicious Delights at the Stanhope Municipal Airport.

When events returned after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lions brought back their spaghetti dinner. However, the sauce that they had used for years wasn't the same.

"It just was not very good," said Bingham bluntly.

Customers clearly noticed that something was different.

The Lions Club met to speak on the issue, at which Bingham brought up that he had a spaghetti sauce recipe that was passed down from his grandmother, to his mother, to himself. A recipe that could be adjusted to match their premade spaghetti sauce, but made entirely from scratch.

The Minden Lions Club has introduced a new spaghetti sauce to their monthly dinners, held at the Lions Hall in Minden. / THOMAS SMITH staff

Bingham was willing to share that his recipe includes lean ground beef, onions, canned tomatoes, garlic, and a selection of spices that he holds close to his chest.

For three or four days, Bingham uses two pots that simmer the sauce for four hours, making batch after batch, in preparation for the monthly event.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," said Bingham. Besides switching to a homemade pasta sauce, the other aspects of the spaghetti dinner have remained the same, including the source of their desserts.

"I'm not a baker," says Bingham with a laugh.

In the slow months, the Lions have a range of 65 to 85 guests visit for the spaghetti dinner. During the summer months, with the influx of seasonal residents, that number climbs to around 100.

"We have had lineups where somebody has to stand at the door checking for open tables," said Bingham.

In July, Bingham will be sworn in as the new Minden Lions Club President, having served with Lions Clubs throughout Ontario for over 30 years and serving as Hall Manager for Minden for the past seven.

"My parents were volunteers," said Bingham. "It's just the way I was raised. It's just a part of my life."

Between three children and working two jobs, Bingham says that he has always found time to volunteer with the Lions Club.

His goal is to attract younger generations of Lions to the club. With an average age of 65, activities like Canada Day and cooking at the Ice Races are slowly becoming more and more of a challenge each year.

At their public events, they have brochures to hand out and rely on word of mouth to attract new members.

He says that the youngest generation's mind-set to volunteer just isn't there.

"We're just not high pressure salesmen," said Bingham with a laugh.

Last year, the Ducky Race had to be cancelled as they did not have enough volunteers to run both their Canada Day barbecue and the race.

The Minden Lions Club are responsible for many efforts that have benefited the community in Minden and beyond. They run an annual golf tournament, donate money to the local food centre, contribute to Fuel for Warmth, the Lion's Canada Guide Dog Program, organize Music in the Park on Bobcaygeon Road, have programs for eyeglasses and hearing aids, and provide support to an after-school youth program at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

The Minden Lions Club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

"A good fit will bring something to the club," said Bingham. "We are open to new ideas. If somebody has an idea where the need [in the community] is not being met, we will be more than glad to listen."

If you are interested in joining the Minden Lions Club, please email them at mindenlions@lionsa16.com.

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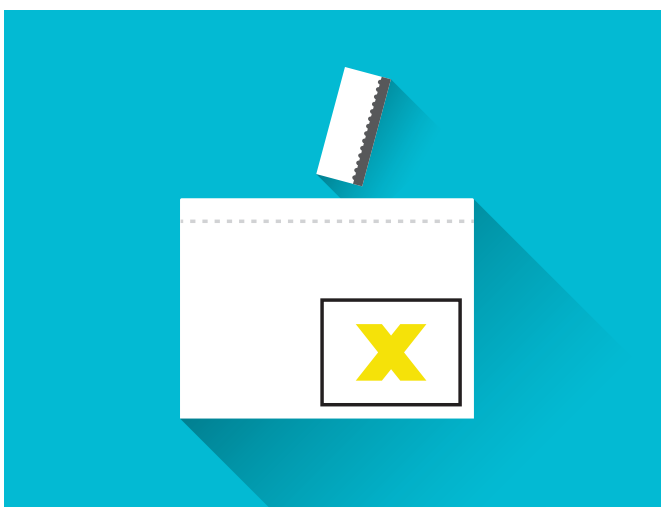

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Visit elections.ca for the official information you need to vote

1-800-463-6868 / elections.ca / TTY 1-800-361-8935

Elections Canada

Egg-citing day for all

Abbey Gardens hosted Easter in the Gardens on Saturday, April 19. The spring-themed event drew a large crowd to play games, hunt for Easter eggs, and visit the ponies onsite. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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To see your not-for-profit or community event listed at no charge in our Summer Guide Magazine, send an email to
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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hyland Ice Supply is now accepting applications for the 2025 summer season for Drivers Helpers, Production Staff and Drivers (D, DZ, G). Interviews will be held early April. Please contact us via e-mail or telephone **info@hylandice.com 1-705-448-2973** Attention Carol

Hiring: regular massage support, experience good but not necessary, will train you. Btwn Minden/ Carnarvon. $30-35+/hr negotiable 1-2x week. **theheartwoodfarm@gmail.com**

380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Commercial Building for lease 1400 sq ft of office/retail space Off grid with hydro back up $2500.00 per month Parking on site 1067 Garden Gate Drive, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Contact angela@abbeygardens.ca for more information **705-754-4769, ext. 221**

Private campground in the Minden/ Haliburton area requires a reliable **SUMMER MAINTENANCE PERSON** from May 10 to October 13, 2025. $20/hour. Duties Include: general maintenance; cleaning park grounds, rec hall, washrooms; operating small grass cutting equipment; ability to lift over 40 lbs; assisting with various small projects as assigned. Approximately 5 hours a day. Morning start time. Willing to work weekends. Must possess a valid "G" driver's license. A good driving record is required. Please submit your resume to **neca.bod@gmail.com.**

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Bingo Night, Hosted by the Wilberforce Agricultural Society

When: Friday, May 2, Doors open at 6 p.m.
Where: Wilberforce in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre
Indulge in custom created beverages, sweet treats and freshly made popcorn before settling in to socialize and enjoy an evening of Bingo at the Wilberforce Lloyd Watson Community Centre. Doors open at 6 pm and the games start at 7 pm. Cash prizes will be awarded. Proceeds support the Youth Ambassador Program. Note: cash only for bingo card purchases.

Loop Troupe Little Theatre Group Variety Show

When: Evening of May 3
Where: Wilberforce in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre
Looking for Talent, Unique Skills, Bring your Party Tricks! Poets, Acrobats, Puppeteers, Magicians, Mime, Jester, Clown, Wrestlers, Contortionists, Marshal Arts, Singers, Dancers, Comedians, Fiddlers, Actors, Jokesters, Flutist, Guitar Players, Piano Players.
For details and to let us know you might be interested email kcsriley@gmail.com. Proceeds from admission to improve the acoustics in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre.

Garden Start Up and Season Extension

When: May 6, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre - 55 Parkside St. Minden
Do you love gardening? Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St. Minden. Guest speaker Jon Faulkner will be discussing 'Garden Start Up and Season Extension', followed by the monthly society meeting.

Minden Curling Club Spring Dance

When: May 10, 4:30 to 10 p.m.
Where: Minden Curling Club
Roast Beef Dinner (Vegetarian available) Dinner and Dance $45 pp. Music only from 6:30 p.m. $25 pp. Music by The Recycled Teenagers Lloyd and Susanne Taylor. Everyone welcome! Tickets available at Let's Get Local & Molly's Market and Bakery or call Wynn Taylor 705-286-3286, Lynda Litwin 705-487-8511,Bob Barron 705-731-7730.

Spring Wildflowers and Wild Leeks

When: Saturday May 10 at 10 a.m.
Where: Barnum Creek Nature Reserve
The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is pleased to announce a new season of Land Trust Discovery Days programming partially funded by a TD Friends of the Environment Fund grant. Registration is required and admission is by donation. Please register at the HHLT website at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or by calling the office at 705-457-3700.

Recurring events

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library New Book Nook Hours

When: 1st, 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/ fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors

When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome.

Haliburton Legion Walking Group

When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes

When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre

When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
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When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
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When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
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When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
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When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
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Deputies declared endangered at county

by Jerry Grozelle

Deputy-reeves will no longer sit at the Haliburton County council table after the next municipal election. County council voted 12-7 in favour of a by-law that changed the composition of the council and determined the weight of the votes given to the remaining council members.

Representatives from Anson, Hindon and Minden , Lutterworth and Stanhope municipal councils opposed the resolution, with the remainder of council members, including warden Murray Fearrey (who called for a recorded vote) supporting the by-law.

The by-law allows a designate from each municipality to sit at county council in the absence of the reeve. That designate, who will be appointed by the municipal councils, will have all the voting privileges, rights, powers and authority of the reeve he or she represents.

Although several members of the public, most of whom were municipal council members, attended the public meeting, no comments in favour or opposed to the resolution were offered.

The county was originally proposing that the weighted vote be changed to reflect each member of the electorate within the municipal boundaries. The by-law was changed to keep the voting weight the same as the current value. Under the current system, municipalities with an electorate of fewer than 2,500 will have one vote, those with 2,500 to 5,000 have two votes, those with 5,000 to 7,500 have three votes and those with more than 7,500 have four votes.

Next edition appears Tuesday

Please note that due to the Easter Monday holiday, the next edition of The Times will appear Tuesday April 1. The Times office will be open Friday March 28 and the deadlines for the next edition of the paper remain unchanged. The Times office will be closed Easter Monday, March 31.

LIGHTS, CAMERA....ACTION!! Members of the Minden Skating Club delighted audiences Saturday night and Sunday afternoon with the presentation of their annual skating extravaganza. This year's show was entitled "See you at the Movies" with themes taken from recent film productions. Above, three of the beginner skaters, Erin Pottier, Kaitlyn Allore and Erica MacMartin, follow Jasmine Wilson through their routine for 'Sister Act', while at the right, Todd Bryan get a little encouragement from Keegan Mackenzie as he skates with the beginner boys to Sweet Home Alabama from the movie 'Forest Gump'. For more photos of this year's performances, please turn to page 11.

Municipalities will soon learn how much

Policing costs shifted

by Jerry Grozelle

Every municipality within Haliburton County and the northern townships of Victoria and Peterborough Counties should know by mid-April the costs of having police services delivered by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Bill Hutton, regional superintendent of the OPP and Coboconk-Minden OPP staff sergeant, Andy Millar, attended the Haliburton County council meeting March 19 to update county council members on changes in policing and to let them know the numbers have been calculated.

Hutton said that Millar will have the figures on March 26 and he will be attending individual council meetings to discuss the costs. Hutton also said there would be a "roll-up cost" that the county would be expected to assume.

Municipalities will have a number of options. They can contract individually with the OPP; seek the services of another police force; several municipalities may band together and ask for specific costing for their collective needs; or they may continue with OPP services as they are and be billed for that service.

Hutton said the cost figures are based on actual 1996 costs.

"As we all know, these are just proposals," Hutton said. "There are some issues in the costing that need to be addressed."

Hutton pointed out that if individual municipalities decide to contract their own police services, whether or not those services are from the OPP, a police services board will have to be formed. He suggested that groups of municipalities would save funds if they combine for the purpose of contracting police services, thereby eliminating the need for numerous boards.

Anson, Hindon and Minden will be one of the first municipalities to learn what its cost for policing from the OPP will be. Millar is scheduled to attend this Thursday's council meeting.

OPP moving to MNR building

Hutton told county council that the OPP will move its Haliburton County operations to the Ministry of Natural Resources building in Minden. The facility will be shared by the MNR and the OPP. In the meantime, the police will continue to use the current facility on Highway 35.

"The building at the back and part of the building at the front will be renovated for our purposes," Hutton said.

Renovations at the MNR building are expected to take between three and six months to complete before the move can be made. Construction will start immediately.

The move will eliminate $37,000 per year in rental fees at the current building, Hutton said. The action is also accomplishing objectives that have been set out by the provincial government which call for co-habitation with other government agencies, in government-owned facilities, wherever possible.

"Of course, once people start paying for policing, if somebody wants to supply us with a nice building, we'd look at moving in there," Hutton said.

Hutton said that when the Ontario Realty Corporation ceases to exist, it will turn over all the buildings that the OPP occupy, to those police forces.

"The kicker is that they will only

(more on page 4)

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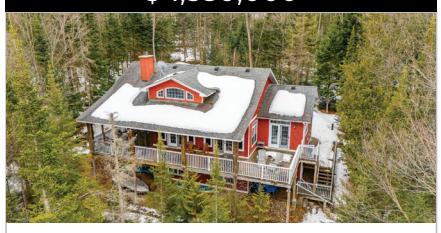

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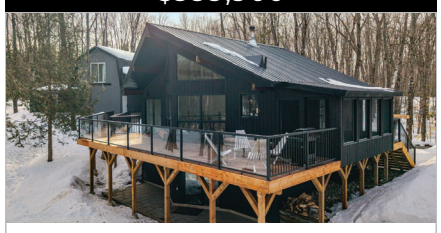

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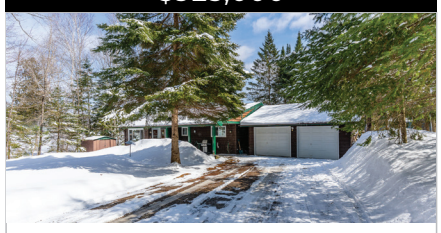

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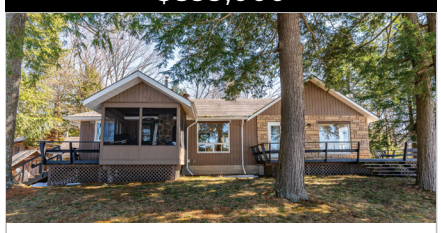

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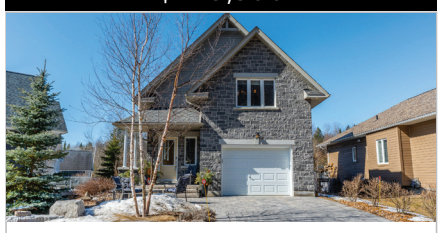

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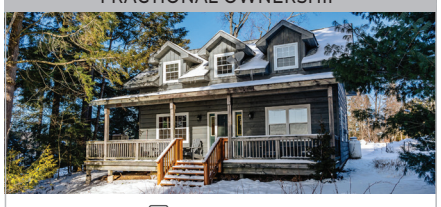

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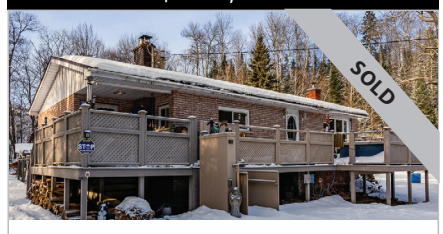

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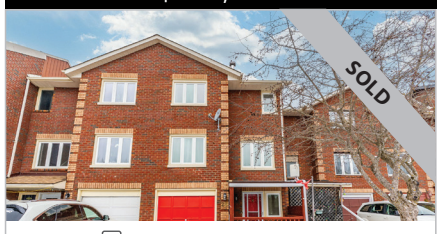

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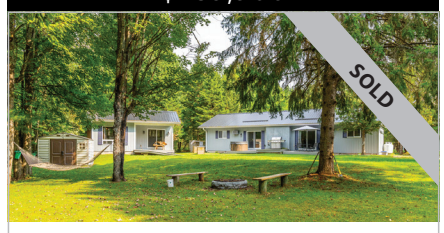

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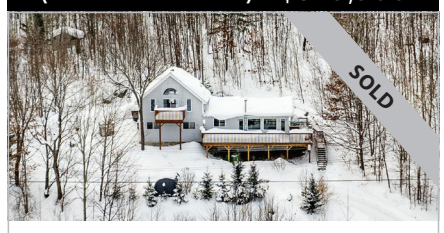

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